IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A blood test method comprising the steps of

(a) centrifuging a mammalian blood sample into a plasma and blood cells;

(b) removing buffy coats from said blood cells to obtain red blood cells containing solutes confined therewithin;

(c) washing said red blood cells with a buffered physiological saline solution and isolating said washed blood cells;

(d) mixing said washed red blood cells with a buffered physiological saline solution to obtain a suspended liquid;

(e) centrifuging said suspended liquid to remove a supernatant and to obtain a red blood cell layer;

(f) mixing said red blood cell layer with a hypertonic solution and maintaining the resulting suspension at a temperature of 25 to 40° C for a period of time sufficient for the solutes confined in the red blood cells to penetrate into the hypertonic solution;

(g) centrifuging the suspension to obtain a supernatant containing the solutes; and

(h) measuring the supernatant for at least one factor selected from the group consisting of a glucose concentration, a pyruvic acid concentration, a lactic acid concentration and an oxidation-reduction potential.

2. (Currently amended) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (a) comprises centrifuging the ~~venous~~ blood sample at a force of 130x g to 200xg for 5 to 10 minutes.

3. (Original) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises mixing the blood cells with a sedimentation agent, and centrifuging the resulting mixture at a force of 800xg to 1,200xg for 7 to 12 minutes.

4. (Original) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (c) comprises mixing said red blood cells with a phosphate buffered physiological saline solution, and centrifuging the resulting mixture at a force of 130xg to 200xg for 5 to 10 minutes.

5. (Original) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (d) comprises mixing said washed red blood cells with a phosphate buffered physiological saline solution in an amount so that the suspended liquid has a hematcrit value of 40 to 50 %.

6. (Original) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises centrifuging the suspended liquid at a force of 130 xg to 200xg for 5 to 10 minutes, and removing the supernatant.

7. (Original) ) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (f) comprises mixing the red blood layer with a 5 to 10 % weight saline solution and maintaining the resulting mixture at a temperature of 35 to 38° C for 7 to 15 minutes.

8. (Original) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (g) comprises centrifuging the suspension at a force of 1,500xg to 2,000xg for 7 to 12 minutes.

9. (Currently amended) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (h) comprises measuring the supernatant for at least one factor selected from the group consisting of a glucose concentration, a pyruvic acid concentration and a lactic acid concentration using an automatic biochemical analyzer.

10. (Original) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein step (h) comprises measuring the supernatant for an oxidation-reduction potential using a potentiometer.

11. (New) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one factor includes glucose concentration.

12. (New) A blood test method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising:

evaluating glucolysis in the red blood cells on the basis of results of said measuring.

13. (New) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein, said at least one factor includes oxidation-reduction potential and further comprising:

measuring the oxidation-reduction potential of the plasma; and

determining if the measured oxidation-reduction potential of the plasma and the measured oxidation-reduction potential of the supernatant fall within standard ranges.

14. (New) A blood test method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one factor includes lactic acid concentration and further comprising:

measuring lactic acid concentration in the plasma;

comparing lactic acid concentration in the supernatant with lactic acid concentration in the plasma; and

evaluating metabolism of the red blood cells based on the results of the comparison.